

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A curable composition comprising the following four components as essential components:

- (A) a vinyl copolymer (I) containing at least one hydrosilylatable alkenyl group per molecule;
- (B) a hydrosilyl group-containing compound (II);
- (C) a hydrosilylation catalyst; and
- (D) a metal soap,

wherein the main chain of the vinyl copolymer (I) is produced by atom transfer radical polymerization.

wherein component (A) is produced by a process comprising the steps of:

- (i) subjecting at least two vinyl monomers to atom transfer radical polymerization to produce a copolymer; and
- (ii) reacting a compound selected from the group consisting of isoprene, piperylene, butadiene, myrcene, 1,5-hexadiene, 1,7-octadiene, 1,9-decadiene, and 4-vinyl-1-cyclohexene with the copolymer from step (i).

2. (Currently amended) The curable composition according to Claim 1, wherein the vinyl copolymer (I) has a molecular-weight distribution of less than 1.8.
3. (Currently amended) The curable composition according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~main chain of the vinyl polymer (I) is produced by mainly polymerizing a vinyl monomers are~~ selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylic monomers, acrylonitrile monomers, aromatic vinyl monomers, fluorine-containing vinyl monomers, and silicon-containing vinyl monomers.

Response to August 29, 2006 Office Action

4. (Currently amended) The curable composition according to Claim 1, wherein the vinyl copolymer (I) is a (meth)acrylic copolymer.
5. (Currently amended) The curable composition according to Claim 1, wherein the vinyl copolymer (I) is an acrylic copolymer.
6. (Currently amended) The curable composition according to Claim 1, wherein the vinyl copolymer (I) is an acrylate copolymer.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently amended) The curable composition according to Claim 81, wherein the atom transfer radical polymerization is carried out using, as a catalyst, a transition metal complex of an element selected from Groups 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 of the periodic table as a central metal.
10. (Currently amended) The curable composition according to Claim 9, wherein the metal complex used as the catalyst is a complex selected from the group consisting of copper complexes, nickel complexes, ruthenium complexes, and iron complexes.
11. (Currently amended) The curable composition according to Claim 10, wherein the metal complex used as the catalyst is a copper complex.
12. (Currently amended) The curable composition according to Claim 1, wherein the component (A) is a vinyl polymer produced by a process comprising the steps of:
 - (1) subjecting a vinyl monomer to atom transfer radical polymerization to produce a vinyl polymer having the copolymer from step (i) has a terminal structure represented by general formula (1):
$$-C(R^1)(R^2)(X) \quad (1)$$
(wherein R¹ and R² each represent a group bonded to an ethylenically unsaturated group of a vinyl monomer, and X represents a chlorine, bromine, or iodine atom); and
 - (2) converting the terminal halogen of the polymer into a substituent containing a hydrosilylatable alkenyl group.

13. (Canceled)
14. (Currently amended) The curable composition according to Claim 1, wherein the vinyl copolymer (I) contains a hydrosilylatable alkenyl group at a terminus of the polymer.
15. (Previously Presented) The curable composition according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrosilyl group-containing compound (II) is an organohydrogen polysiloxane.
16. (Currently amended) The curable composition according to Claim 1, wherein the component (D) is a metal stearate.
17. (Currently amended) The curable composition according to Claim 16, wherein the component (D) is at least one metal stearate selected from the group consisting of calcium stearate, magnesium stearate, and zinc stearate is used.
18. (Previously Presented) The curable composition according to Claim 1, further comprising, as a component (E), reinforcing silica.
19. (Currently amended) The curable composition according to Claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of the alkenyl group of the component (A) to the hydrosilyl group of the component (B) is 5 to 0.2, the component (C) is used in an amount of 10^{-1} to 10^{-8} mole per mole of the alkenyl group of the component (A), and the component (D) is used in an amount of 0.025 to 5 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the component (A).
20. (Currently amended) A method for improving mold release properties of a cured object comprising adding (D), a metal soap metal soap to a curable composition containing, as essential components,
 - (A) a vinyl copolymer (I) containing at least one hydrosilylatable alkenyl group per molecule,
 - (B) a hydrosilyl group-containing compound (II), and
 - (C) a hydrosilylation catalyst,
wherein the main chain of the vinyl copolymer (I) is produced by atom transfer radical polymerization,
wherein component (A) is produced by a process comprising the steps of:

Response to August 29, 2006 Office Action

(i) subjecting at least two vinyl monomers to atom transfer radical polymerization to produce a copolymer; and

(ii) reacting a compound selected from the group consisting of isoprene, piperylene, butadiene, myrcene, 1,5-hexadiene, 1,7-octadiene, 1,9-decadiene, and 4-vinyl-1-cyclohexene with the copolymer from step (i).

21. (Previously Presented) A cured object prepared from the curable composition according to Claim 1.
22. (Original) The cured object according to Claim 21, wherein the cured object is not substantially damaged during removal from mold after formation of a molded object.